INTELLIGENCER

Dirty Tricks on Rosenbergs

The dirty tricks played on Julius and Ethel Rosenberg would make even Richard Nixon weep. According to Sol Stern and Ronald Radosh, authors of a forthcoming book on the case, the FBI covered up anti-Semitism in the jury room. A recently released FBI memo mentions a wire-service reporter who happened to wander into the jury room, where he noticed an anti-Semitic remark in the foreman's notebook. Instead of writing up the incident, and perhaps forcing a mistrial, the reporter informed the FBI. Of course, the bureau kept quiet.

Another FBI memo to Hoover aide Clyde Tolson related attorney Morris Ernst's intention—only if the bureau approved—to spy on the Rosenbergs while pretending to work on their appeal. The late Ernst, a member of the board of the American Civil Liberties Union and a prominent literary lawyer, was actually a Hoover groupie who secretly fed the FBI information about ACLU cases. But Hoover refused to give him the go-ahead.

BY PHILIP NOBILE

Photo: top left, U.S. News & World Report.